

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.25c

who lost his or her life during any period indicated herein.

(4) Letter applications for Gold Star lapel buttons may be submitted to The Adjutant General or to the Commanding Officer, Army Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132, by eligible next of kin of deceased Army personnel enumerated in paragraphs (b) (2) and (3) of this section.

(5) Under the act, only one Gold Star lapel button will be furnished to eligible individuals, except that whenever a Gold Star lapel button has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use, without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, such button may be replaced at cost price upon application to The Adjutant General. Private manufacture and/or sale of the Gold Star lapel button is prohibited. The design will not be incorporated in any manner in any article manufactured commercially or privately. The law prescribes a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 2 years as a penalty for unauthorized wearing or counterfeiting of the Gold Star lapel button, or for possessing a counterfeit of this button.

§ 578.25a Certificate of Honorable Service and Record Service (Deceased Military Personnel).

(a) *Certificate of Honorable Service.* A Certificate of Honorable Service (DA Form 1563) is issued to the closest next of kin of record in recognition of services rendered by those who die in line of duty while in active military service in time of peace when the Accolade is not appropriate.

(1) The certificate reads as follows:

Honorable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This is to certify that _____ died while in the service of our country as a member of the Army of the United States on the _____ day of _____. This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service. (Signature) Secretary of the Army.

(2) Certificates of Honorable Service will be issued by The Adjutant General upon receipt of reports of death.

(b) *A Record of Service—Deceased Military Personnel (DA Form 53A).* Form 53A will be issued for all military personnel

who die while in the active military service or while taking inactive status training as reservists not on active duty, regardless of line of duty status. Commanding officer having custody of the individual's records at time of death will prepare the form in duplicate. The original will be forwarded to the closest next of kin of record of the deceased individual in the following order: Widow or widower, eldest son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest sister, eldest grandchild.

§ 578.25b Certificate of Achievement.

Commanding officers may recognize periods of faithful service, acts, or achievements which do not meet the standards required for decorations by issuing to individual United States military personnel and United States civilian citizens a Certificate of Achievement.

(a) The Certificate of Achievement may be devised locally by commanding officers and issued under such regulations as they may prescribe; may be printed or lithographed; and may bear reproductions of authorized insignia. A Certificate of Achievement may be used locally for awarding the Good Conduct Medal.

(b) No distinguishing device is authorized for wear to indicate the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement.

§ 578.25c Special Certificate of Achievement for Public and Community Relations.

(a) A Special Certificate of Achievement for issuance to information media, civic, fraternal, and other types of organizations and groups who have actively supported the Army in its public and community relations efforts, including the Reserve Forces Program, has been established. This special certificate is designed to give official Department of the Army recognition to civilian groups and organizations who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of public understanding of the Army, gaining for it greater public confidence and support. Consideration should be given to the award of this certificate as an expression of the appreciation of the Army

for the service rendered by civilian organizations which have contributed directly to improved relationship between members of local military commands and civilian communities. The award may be made in recognition of service rendered over a prolonged period of time, or for a specific one-time program or service considered to be so outstanding as to merit commendation by the Secretary of the Army.

(b) Letter recommendations for issuance of the Special Certificate of Achievement for Public and Community Relations will be submitted to the Chief of Information, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20310, through military channels. Recommendations will include a detailed description of the contributions made by the nominee, the inclusive dates of the period during which the contributions were made, and a proposed citation. The value of these contributions to the Army must be clearly indicated. No distinguishing device is authorized for wear by members of the cited organization.

(c) Presentation of the special certificate will be made in a manner commensurate with the significance of the award.

[22 FR 9693, Dec. 4, 1957]

SERVICE MEDALS

§ 578.26 General.

(a) *Purpose.* Service (campaign) medals denote honorable performance of military duty within specified limiting dates in specified geographical areas. With the exception of the Medal of Humane Action and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal they are awarded only for active Federal military service.

(b) *Awarding.* Awarding of service medals is effected pursuant to announcement of criteria by the Secretary of the Army in Department of the Army Bulletins or General Orders. A service medal thus is automatically awarded to each individual who meets the published criteria. Orders are not required.

(c) *Requisitioning.* Service medals for service prior to World War I will not be requisitioned for display purposes since only minimum essential quantities are

available for issue to authorized recipients.

(d) *Duplicating awards.* Not more than one service medal will be awarded for service involving identical or overlapping periods of time, except that each of the following groups of service medals may be awarded to an individual provided he meets the criteria prescribed hereinafter.

(1) World War I Victory Medal and Mexican Service Medal.

(2) World War II Victory Medal and one or more of the campaign medals for that war.

(3) Medal for Humane Action and Army of Occupation Medal.

(4) National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, and United Nations Service Medal.

(5) Armed Forces Reserve Medal and any other service medal listed hereinafter.

[26 FR 6436, July 18, 1961]

§ 578.27 Good Conduct Medal.

(a) *Purpose.* The Good Conduct Medal, established by Executive Order 8809 and amended by Executive Order 9323 and by Executive Order 10444 is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active Federal military service. It is awarded on a selective basis to each soldier who distinguishes himself from among his fellow soldiers by his exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity while in an enlisted status. There is no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander has made positive recommendation for its award, and until the awarding authority has announced the award in General Orders. To qualify for an award of the Good Conduct Medal, an enlisted person must meet specified criteria throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service, as outlined in this section.

(b) *Awarding authority.* General and field grade officer commanders are authorized to award the Good Conduct Medal (original and subsequent awards) to enlisted personnel serving under their command jurisdiction who meet the established criteria. This delegated authority is limited to service during the 36 calendar months immediately